

134 is formed by machining a recessed area 136 everywhere on an end face ("broadly, an axially facing surface") of the female fitting except at the annular contact surface. Debris in opposed recessed areas 136 of the female and male fittings 36', 116' will generally not engage both fittings when the two are mated, and thus will not interfere with the axial alignment of the fittings. For smaller fittings, where it is difficult to machine a contact surface which is wide enough, an end face 138 of a female fitting 36" is beveled as shown in Figs. 20 and 20A. The end face 138 of the fitting slopes axially inwardly from the peripheral edge of the end face to the central, threaded opening 108". The slope of the end face 138 is very small, but may be seen in the greatly enlarged fragmentary view of Fig. 20A. The male fitting (not shown) has the same construction except that the bevel terminates at the projecting threaded end.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1 (amended). A surveying pole for use in locating a position in a survey of land, the surveying pole comprising at least one pole section, a point mounted on a lower end of said one pole section for engaging the ground, and a shoe sized and shaped for covering the point, the shoe being formed for releasable connection of the shoe to the surveying pole over the point to selectively cover the point, the shoe having a blunt bottom wall engageable with the ground where the shoe covers the point, whereby the surveying pole is capable of selective configuration for use in terrain having different surface properties without removal of the point.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

6 (amended). A surveying pole as set forth in claim 1 wherein the bottom wall is flat and has a surface area sized for engaging soft terrain to support the surveying pole above the terrain.